Network Snapshot

Preventing Every Student

New Tech Network students persist in college at a rate of 82 percent compared to 74 percent nationally.²

New Tech Network high school students had a graduation rate of 95 percent compared to the national average of 85 percent.²

81,500+ Students
5,000+ Teachers
34,000+ NTN Graduates over the past seven years

Partnering Across the Country

NTN partners with more than 200 schools in 28 states.

12 Alumni Schools
11 Australian Schools
133 Network Schools
02 Echo Affiliate Schools
29 Affiliate Schools
49 NTN College Access Network Schools*

* NTN College Access Network schools do not all share the same Network membership affiliation and their different statuses are reflected in the total number of schools.
And yet, to successfully meet the needs of all students (academically, socially and emotionally) requires a deep understanding of the systems at work for schools and districts. For more than two decades our holistic approach to change through the New Tech school model has been evidence-based. Buoyed by research supporting the efficacy of our methodology, we are energized, even bullish for the future of local education. We have successfully supported hundreds of schools and districts, and each partnership is based on bringing a systems approach to a systems problem that is led by a locally set vision.

We find ourselves at an extraordinary juncture in K-12 education. We hope that the worst of the pandemic disruptions are indeed behind us, which would signal an opening for mental and emotional space to re-examine how schools function with a singular goal: What do we need to do differently so that every student graduates prepared for the college and career pursuits of their choosing?

The New Tech Network (NTN) mission is to support the creation of schools that ensure all students regularly engage in authentic complex thinking and problem solving in a learning environment that is safe, inclusive and emotionally supportive. Our work has also shown that better outcomes for students endure when classroom educators, school heads, and district leaders have trust and confidence in themselves anchored by a clear shared understanding of the ”why” behind all aspects of a school model.

More than ever we appreciate the opportunity to partner with you to engage in meaningful change that is equity-based and student-centered.

Lydia Dobyns
President & CEO
New Tech Network Overview

New Tech Network (NTN) is committed to transforming teaching and learning so every child—regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, ability, or income status—has access to a meaningful, equitable, and inclusive learning environment focused on preparation for college and career, allowing all students to thrive.

New Tech Network pioneers whole school transformation through high-quality project-based learning (PBL) and a deep focus on school and classroom culture. Our coaches work directly with teachers and school leadership teams to create learning environments that help all students graduate prepared for the demands of the future. School culture at NTN schools is oriented around belonging and social emotional well-being. Instruction focuses on PBL that is learner-centered and grounded in culturally sustaining practices.

When NTN partner schools shift culture and instruction as part of a comprehensive approach to education, those schools consistently experience positive outcomes for students—particularly students historically situated farthest from opportunity. To support them on their journey, educators in NTN schools have access to a robust set of resources, ongoing coaching and support from experienced coaches, and a collaborative network of innovative education professionals.

The New Tech Learning Outcomes

The New Tech Learning Outcomes are five research-based outcomes designed to allow teachers to assess students based on a holistic picture of their skills while meeting state academic requirements. The New Tech Learning Outcomes are Knowledge and Thinking, Communication, Agency, Oral Communication, and Written Communication. In collaboration with the Stanford Center for Assessment, Learning, and Equity (SCALE), NTN developed a set of academic content rubrics for each learning outcome that align with college readiness standards.

Through NTN’s learning management platform, Echo, teachers are able to thoughtfully assess and collect data on student performance across the five learning outcomes. Teachers provide feedback on content knowledge and the skills essential for college and career readiness. Students in NTN schools often highlight agency, or the combination of academic mindsets and the ability to take ownership over one’s learning, as a key differentiator when compared to peers at non-NTN schools.

The NTN Mission

New Tech Network, a national nonprofit organization, is a leading design partner for comprehensive K-12 school change. We coach teachers and school leaders to inspire and engage all students through authentic and challenging learning experiences.

Reaching Higher

NTN students and other students in deeper learning schools gained the academic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal skills necessary for success in post-secondary life and beyond. Students who attended schools focused on deeper learning reported greater competency in some deeper learning domains, had higher rates of graduating from high school, and were more likely to enroll in 4-year colleges than similar students who attended comparison schools.3
For New Tech Network, encouraging and facilitating this spirit of collaboration stems from schools sharing a common vision for how students are educated so they are prepared for an ever-evolving world. The Network enables educators at all levels to collaborate, like teachers sharing project ideas or district leaders convening to discuss predictable challenges and best practices. When an active network of people work together, they produce better ideas and improve the quality of resources. Implementing comprehensive school change brings both predictable and unexpected challenges. Facing these challenges in isolation is often ineffective and frequently difficult to sustain. To build a more effective local educational system, schools benefit most by working together. The NTN school model combined with the power of a nation-wide network create a formidable force for change.

A Diverse Network

NTN partner schools succeed, in part, because they can easily work together - classroom educators and school leaders share ideas and best practices with other Network schools.

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The Four Pillars

New Tech Network’s decades of experience guiding schools through comprehensive transformation led to the Four Design Pillars. NTN developed these four categories to align the work of whole school transformation and to help school communities understand the overarching goals that impact the work through all phases of the school development process.

Outcomes That Matter:
NTN schools focus on student outcomes that prepare all students for postsecondary success. The five New Tech Learning Outcomes include: collaboration, knowledge and thinking, written communication, oral communication, and agency.

Culture That Empowers:
School and classroom culture at NTN schools is oriented around developing an inclusive and supportive learning community that is asset-based, affirms student identities, and focused on social-emotional well-being and belonging.

Technology That Enables:
NTN schools use technology to support collaboration and student-centered learning. Echo, NTN’s learning management system, supports project-based learning and features an innovative gradebook that aligns to the deeper learning skills students will need in college and career. Digital tools, cultivated and aligned content, and a community of shared learning are integrated to create a powerful platform to support student and adult learning.

Teaching That Engages:
Instruction in NTN schools focuses on implementing high-quality PBL that supports deeper learning for each student. PBL that supports a more equitable learning environment includes using learner-centered practices, adopting a culturally sustaining approach, supporting students’ literacy development, and integrating assessment practices focused on growth on the learning outcomes.

### Positive Impact

NTN project-based learning created an instructional environment that positively impacted student learning, relationships, and technology use.

### Demographic Composition*

<table>
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<th>Total NTN Students</th>
<th>Total Elementary School</th>
<th>Total Middle School</th>
<th>Total High School</th>
<th>NTN School Range</th>
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</table>

* Demographic categories are aligned with National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) reporting to enable comparisons.

^Weighted average percent in Network schools rather than total percent of NTN students.
The Path to Joining New Tech Network

Planning

New Tech Network believes that sustainable, high-impact practices for supporting student development in deeper learning outcomes are only possible through the alignment of principles and practices across the entire school community, not just in a few isolated classrooms or only by shifting methods of instruction. To this end, all NTN schools adopt the four design pillars that act as the foundation of our school model.

School Design Planning and Implementation Support
Ongoing planning support and resources for school and district leadership teams.

NTN School Tours
An opportunity for district and school teams to see the NTN model in action and engage with current practitioners.

School Design Academy
Engage leadership teams in a design process that helps establish purpose, vision, and initial steps towards school innovation.

Planning Workshops
Opportunities for school teams and communities to learn more about the NTN model and dive deep into NTN’s core components.

NT Instructional Practices
Instructional workshops for teachers and leaders who want to get a jump start on teaching and assessing for Deeper Learning.

Implementation

NTN serves three primary groups at your school or district during NTN model implementation and beyond: the Leadership Team, the School Team, and Teachers.

Leadership Team
This small group, including the school leader and teacher leaders, keeps the instructional vision and direction in focus. Leadership Teams help ensure sustainability and shared leadership.

Trainings, Events, and Resources
Leadership Institute
Leadership Toolkit
Leadership Team Workshops
Leadership Summits

School Team
A diverse mix of teachers, leaders, and school staff who implement the New Tech Network model. They address challenges and develop a strong culture of student and adult learning.

Trainings, Events, and Resources
Readiness Visit
School Team Workshops
Culture Toolkits
Discussion Groups
Echo Learning Management System
NTN Residency
NTN New Schools Training
New Tech Annual Conference

Teachers Team
Teachers make PBL in the classroom happen. To ensure their success, NTN provides on-demand, personalized and differentiated support to meet each teacher at their level of need.

Trainings, Events, and Resources
Curriculum Frameworks
Project Starter Kits
Project Resources
On-going Coaching and Support
On-Demand Coaching
Impetus for Change

Just 15 miles east of Columbus, Ohio, sits Reynoldsburg City Schools (RCS). This 7,500-student district, served through five High School Academies, four middle schools, and six elementary schools, had a vision of “deeper learning, in every classroom, every day” but the district was struggling to fulfill the vision. Reynoldsburg City Schools (RCS) Superintendent Dr. Melvin J. Brown observed that “Prior to (our partnership with New Tech Network) we were just doing the things we’ve always done, while at the same time, our local industry was evolving and changing— and we were not changing with it. We recognized we had to do better to prepare kids for the reality they were going to walk into after high school and beyond.”

Engaging with NTN Services

To build this expansion, RCS school leaders worked with New Tech Network to engage in a collection of services customized to fit the district’s deeper learning goals. These included attendance at NTN’s School Design Academy, participation in New Tech Instructional Practices, New Tech Leadership Practices and different induction and implementation experiences, including Leadership Institute, Residency, New School Training and ongoing coaching.

“We recognized we had to do better to prepare kids for the reality they were going to walk into after high school and beyond”
Superintendent Dr. Melvin J. Brown

“For me, deeper learning happens when you really stretch the students’ mind through inquiry and the projects that they’re doing,” said John Downing, humanities teacher at The 9X Impact Academy, RCS’s first New Tech Network school. “I don’t see how that could be a downside to any school district when you’re trying to push your students forward, and the results speak for themselves.”

Where the Work is Now

To further support and sustain the implementation of deeper learning practices throughout the district, RCS created the Center for Deeper Learning (CDL). Born from the separated offices of Innovation, Instructional Coaches, and Educational Technology, the CDL unified all supports under a central focus on deeper learning, innovative practices, and instructional supports.

Instructional leaders who are part of the Center for Deeper Learning also receive coaching from NTN through the NTN Coach Development Community (CDC). RCS Instructional coaches have shared that while the on-the-ground support has helped them build relationships with colleagues, the training in coaching style from NTN has allowed them to elevate team building within the district coaching team and build strategies for best practices in the classroom. “Giving tangible, go-to instructional strategies helps teachers reflect on what the kids engage with and allows them to adjust from there,” said Latasha Turner, principal at Summit Road Elementary. “Seeing, and then implementing, these practices and being able to reflect on the differences has been very beneficial for our teachers.”

Hopes for the Future

RCS leaders continue to partner with New Tech Network to expand deeper learning opportunities throughout the district, and are considering additional whole-school implementations. These implementations will fully embrace the New Tech model, with integrated courses and a focus on assessment practices geared towards learning outcomes. RCS currently has four full NTN implementation schools in the district. Jocelyn Cosgrave, RCS’s Chief Academic Officer shared, “We wanted to make sure that we were actually talking the talk and walking the walk, and we couldn’t do that without the support of a comprehensive network like New Tech Network.”
An Inside Look
Jefferson County Public Schools

Location: Jefferson County, Colorado • Type: Urban and Suburban

Impetus for Change
Jefferson County Public Schools, or “Jeffco”, in the metro area of Denver, Colorado, includes 155 schools on 168 campuses with more than 80,000 students enrolled across the district. “Our community values work experience very highly,” said Matt Flores, Chief Academic Officer at Jeffco Public Schools, who sources feedback from community partners like the Arvada Chamber of Commerce and local businesses for insight on what they’re looking for in future employees.

In 2018, Flores’ team was offered an opportunity to attend the New Tech Annual Conference (NTAC), where members from five school teams interested in PBL and deeper learning were able to explore the NTN model; he left the conference impressed with how the model prepares students for college and career success. “We knew NTN was an excellent match for Arvada High School right away,” said Flores. “The outcomes from the NTN model in the classroom matched the desires of our community for students to gain experience that translates back into the success of our community long-term, along with the critical skill-set they were developing at school.”

Engaging with NTN Services
In addition to participating in NTN events like Beyond NTAC and Leadership Summit, Jeffco district leaders participated in workshops led by NTN facilitators to develop their capacity to lead schools in the work. In January 2019, Jeffco leaders participated in a workshop titled “Leading Deeper Learning” from NTN District and School Development Senior Director Nick Kappelhof. “This workshop brought more than 20 Jeffco school and district leaders together to explore not just what deeper learning looks like in practice, but also how leaders can create conditions for deeper learning to thrive in schools,” said Kappelhof.

Where the Work is Now
“We’re one of the leaders in the state when it comes to kids being successful in concurrent enrollment,” said Flores. “With the type of learning happening at Arvada High School, our kids are well-positioned to be successful in concurrent enrollment opportunities which gives them access to college academics and creates a better chance for success in college before graduating high school.”

Flores shares that the collaboration with community partners is one of the truest practical applications of Jeffco student skills. “The relevance these opportunities provide to our kids is born out of the skills they’ll learn in our New Tech schools and across the district,” explained Flores.

Jeffco district and school leaders continue to receive feedback from local employment partners regarding the performance of students enrolled in work-based apprenticeship and internship programs. “We’ve heard lots of positive feedback from our partners,” reported Flores. “They’ve told us our students are successful, they’re problem solvers, and they add value to their industry.” So valuable, in fact, that in 2019, the City of Arvada Chamber of Commerce awarded Jeffco Public Schools with the Partner of the Year Award for the success of the district’s workforce readiness programs.

Hopes for the Future
Jeffco’s district and school teams just implemented a second New Tech model at North Arvada Middle School, one of the feeder middle schools to Arvada High School. Middle school students will participate in a program focused on improving student outcomes through project-based learning and deeper learning practices in the classroom, hallmarks of the New Tech model. “With the implementation of the New Tech model at North Arvada Middle School, we’re extending the type of post-secondary preparation that’s happening at Arvada High School – now, it’s beginning in the sixth grade,” said Flores. “It’s only going to set the students, and the community, up for that much more success.”

The district continues to grow its support for post-secondary options for students like concurrent enrollment, apprenticeships, and internships by building a roster of career partnerships on behalf of the students.

Current partners include Lockheed Martin, Marriott, Frontier Airlines, Army, Navy, Colorado State Patrol, engineering firms, and many more. “Our future at Jeffco is focused on creating opportunities for our kids to be successful in the workforce before they go to college, before they get the job themselves,” said Flores. “That has been a huge value-add to our entire county, and something we’re putting extra emphasis on in upcoming school years.”

88,100 Students
17 High Schools
05 Alternative Schools
17 Middle Schools
84 Elementary Schools
Impetus for Change

As a fast growing, suburban district situated just thirty minutes north of Austin and adding up to 1,000 students per year, Leander ISD is high-performing compared to other schools in the state — but the community wanted more than just high test scores for their students. Parents, students, and community members wanted authentic, relevant and applicable learning experiences, and their feedback made it clear that student choice and higher levels of engagement were important, which led the district to explore innovation in deeper learning.

Chrysta Carlin, Assistant Superintendent of Pathways and Innovation at Leander ISD, recognized what the community was looking for and worked with other district leaders to guide Leander ISD to an instructional model that supported the community’s wishes for Leander schools. “At the beginning of our innovation journey, we held a board meeting where we engaged our board members in activities designed to use deeper learning and understand the experience we were seeking for our students. Our board is foundational to helping us expand deeper learning district-wide,” stated Carlin.

Engaging with NTN Services

Carlin explained how district leadership worked with Mark Koller, who wanted “to do something different instructionally,” when he accepted the position of principal at Danielson Middle School in 2020. “We conducted research together and identified project-based learning as the best match for our school and its students, and the district leaders coached us to consider what measures we’d need to take to make the work sustainable and viable,” Carlin.

In addition to the induction process, NTN staff also worked directly with district leaders to ensure they developed expertise in deeper learning and the New Tech school model. Jude Garnier, NTN Senior Director of School and District Leadership, worked with Leander ISD leaders to provide teacher and staff support to build a strong foundation for sustaining the innovations from the beginning of the implementation of the New Tech model at Danielson Middle School. “A significant part of why the first year of Danielson’s New Tech implementation was so successful (even in the midst of a pandemic) was the clear vision Mark and his team held for the school,” said Garnier. “Their ability to lead from purpose (deeper learning for every student) and help teachers understand how the New Tech model could support this goal helped to build the shared ownership of commitment to this work.”

Where the Work is Now

In addition to crafting a new district mission and vision statement, Leander ISD updated its Graduate Profile, which features New Tech Learning Outcomes like collaboration and communication, and provides support to schools to shape their own profiles.

Notably, the district adopted a set of Core Beliefs which focus on the individual student and deeper learning. “Our Core Beliefs have been a driving force in our work, helping us to better evaluate what focusing on the individual looks like in the classroom and what that means for a student’s educational experience,” said Carlin. “We strongly believe that deeper learning is the vehicle which allows these students to grow and flourish.”

Students 41,381
High Schools 06
Alternative Schools 02
Middle Schools 09
Elementary Schools 28

Location: Leander, Texas • Type: Suburban
Research Supports the NTN Model Implementation

Adult learning for classroom educators and school leaders is an integral component of NTN’s implementation support with the goal of improving learning experiences for students. Research supports Professional Development as a key driver of successful school level change and development. The Research and Measurement team assesses NTN professional development experiences to ensure consistent high quality learning that translates into implementation and changes in practice that result in a different student learning experience. Year 2 data from ongoing evaluation efforts of NTN professional development services provide evidence that the NTN model supports and sustains adult shifts over time. Learning objectives are met during the planning phase and sustained through the implementation events documenting pivotal shifts between professional learning to implementation to change in practice. The findings in the table below capture educator responses related to key professional development learning objectives.

Additionally, the Research and Measurement team supports school implementation efforts by providing valid and reliable school-based student and educator culture surveys uniquely aligned to NTN’s model to empower school leadership teams with actionable data to improve the learning environment and school experiences of each and all students. The research-based NTN School Culture Surveys are tools to help schools deliver on the promise of an affirming, inclusive, and emotionally supportive environment. Interactive reports enable schools to track progress over time and understand experiences of different groups of students and educators across multiple topics designed specifically for NTN schools including school connectedness, teaching and learning, positive relationships, school processes and practices, and PBL.

Leander ISD’s Core Beliefs:

- Each and every student is at the heart of our decisions. This requires a focus on students and all elements that impact their overall student experience in order for them to reach their maximum potential.
- LISD life-changers (each and every staff member) should be empowered so they can inspire our students to own their learning.
- Our LISD family, which includes our students and their families, life-changers, board, and community members, thrives when we ensure a welcoming, safe, and caring environment in which we treat one another with integrity, respect, fairness, and acceptance while appreciating our differences.
- A deliberate and intentional focus on relevant and deeper learning for each student will optimize individual outcomes and personal growth.
- Developing and maintaining meaningful, collaborative relationships between all our LISD family is vital for a whole child, student-driven experience.

Hopes for the Future

Leander ISD’s commitment to this work is apparent in the intentionality that district leaders, staff and community members have put into the lifespan and sustainability of pervasive and long-lasting change.

“We’re adamant that this isn’t just another initiative we’re spreading across the district,” said Carlin. “That’s why we’ve specified that we’re spreading deeper learning instead of a stringent instructional model for every school. By asking each campus and its leaders to define what deeper learning means for them and how they can help their students achieve goals related to that, it creates buy-in from the school leaders and staff, because they were involved in developing the plan they’re adopting,” said Carlin. “Our goal at the district level is to meet each campus where they are and support them in this process, building capacity with them to sustain this work long-term.”

Photos Courtesy of Leander Independent School District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Objective</th>
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<tr>
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Visit www.newtechnetwork.org/impact for a comprehensive look at the research and evidence supporting the NTN model.
NTN Content and Community

**ECHO**

The Echo® platform houses all digital content for New Tech Network partner schools. The learning management platform hosts class agendas and resources for student projects and assessment, robust teacher communities, professional development, parent access to their student’s work, NTN-provided resources, and more. Echo’s many capabilities are accessible in a user-friendly interface that parents, students, and teachers navigate daily – easily finding tools and resources that meet their needs. Echo is unique because it is the only learning management platform designed to assist and assess students based on multiple learning outcomes. Engaging teaching and robust feedback systems need a sophisticated but accessible platform to be effective.

**SLACK**

NTN believes the best way to cultivate a culture of empowerment, discovery, and innovation is through a network of engaged, passionate individuals who share a student-centered vision for schools. That's why we’ve created the NTN Slack Community – an online platform that shortens the distance between members of New Tech Network, making connecting and communicating with one another easy. Within the NTN Slack Community, members can pose questions, invite collaboration, find other educators who teach the same content or grade levels and easily search for resources.

**THE NTN HELP AND LEARNING CENTER**

Educators can tap into NTN’s two decades of experience through the NTN Help and Learning Center. The Center contains hundreds of easily searchable resources and an “Ask a Coach” feature that puts them in touch with support whenever they need it. These critical resources support school leaders and teachers that partner with New Tech Network to transform teaching and learning in their schools.

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K-12 Curriculum Frameworks

**YEAR-AT-A-GLANCE**

A high-level overview of a year-long sequence of projects.

**PROJECT SNAPSHOT**

An overview of each project listed on the Year-at-a-Glance that includes an estimated timeline, power learning outcomes and standards, project scenario, and key assessments.

**PROJECT PLANNING TOOLKIT**

This robust template provides the granular details that help teachers design and execute a project. The toolkit is broken down into five categories: begin with the end in mind, design the project scenario, create the path, plan the assessment, and assess before launch.

**ECHO PROJECT FOLDER**

Each project has multiple teacher and student-facing materials that are accessed through NTN’s learning management system, ECHO. The Echo Project Folder is where students complete activities, collaborate with others, receive feedback, and monitor their progress.

**PRACTICES CARD DECK**

The Practices Card Deck is a compilation of key cultural, instructional, and reflective practices that teachers can implement in their classrooms to support student learning.

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I love using Slack because it provides me a wealth of knowledge and resources within the NTN community of leaders, educators and fellow administrators. Collaboration is at my fingertips anytime that I need feedback or support.

Seven Valleys New Tech Academy Director Amy Drumluk
Steps to Whole School Transformation

Quick Guide: Partnering with NTN

01
We partner to create a plan of success for your school – be it redesign, new school implementation, or small workshops.

02
Our expert coaches work collaboratively with your school to implement the NTN model and bring the vision of what your school could be to life.

03
Your school moves into a small-sized contract, enabling access to Network resources.

Get Started Today with NTN’s Free School Design Studio

School Design Studio is a digital hub that accelerates your redesign journey through proven resources, courses, seminars, workshops, and customized support. With New Tech Network guiding you and your team, you have the tools and processes you need to reimagine your school.

Citations


3Bergeron, L. (2019, November). Leveraging evaluation data to support change management across schools and districts. Paper presentation at the annual conference of the American Evaluation Associations, Minneapolis, MN.


Photography

Special thanks to:
Reynoldsburg City Schools
Jefferson County Public Schools
Leander Independent School District
Winton Woods North Campus, Design by SHP © 2021 JH Photography
Dan Vermillion, Vermillion Photo
Business leaders felt the high school experience was not helping students develop the collaboration and communication skills they needed, alongside their academic preparation. The start to a completely re-imagined school experience was based on a bold vision. Within a few years, student-centered focus, attention to culture, and pervasive use of project-based learning was the genesis of a new school model. NNTHS attracted national philanthropic support to create what is now New Tech Network, a non-profit organization based in Napa, California. What started as one district-operated high school is now a vibrant network of more than 200 elementary, middle, and high schools in diverse communities across the country and in Australia.

The origin story for New Tech Network goes back to 1996 in Napa, California where the first in-district school was a collaboration between local entrepreneurs, teachers, and district leadership.